

THE EVENING STAR.
WASHINGTON.
SATURDAY, February 1, 1902.
CROSBY S. NOYES, Editor.
THE EVENING STAR has a regular and permanent family circulation much more than the combined circulation of the other Washington dailies. As a News and Advertising Medium it has no competitor.

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Another Touch of Homestead? It is a trick of history sometimes to repeat itself. Shall we witness a repetition this year of the blindness which sent the republican party to a smashing defeat in 1892?

When the labor situation took an acute turn at Homestead last year, the wisest of the republican leaders, scenting danger, were anxious for the great iron and steel interests to make terms with their men. Those interests were prospering as the result of republican policies. A national election was approaching. The country generally was in good shape, with a strong man in the White House. The interests appealed to stood as stubborn as a mule. They refused to give an inch. A riot resulted; blood was shed; labor circles everywhere took fire with indignation, and the democracy swept the country. The republican leaders were furious. They denounced the iron and steel men, and General Grosvenor, then in Congress, and now a member of the ways and means committee, paid his compliments to Andrew Carnegie in a most picturesque characterization.

The iron and steel interests are again to the fore. They are dominating the resistance to reciprocity and the few tariff reductions that are demanded. They are greatly prospering as the result of republican policies. Their combinations, for the amount of capital involved and for the magnitude of their operations, are one of the wonders of the day. The country generally is in good shape, and there is a strong man in the White House. He urges reciprocity, not only with Cuba, but with other countries. Shall his advice be rejected? Shall the great protected interests, which can so well afford to resist something at this time—iron and steel a little, sugar a little, and other industries a little—stand as stubborn as mules and yield nothing? If so, shall we have, as the consequence, another taste of such bitterness as doubled up the country with the return of Mr. Cleveland to the White House?

It may be said that the people, even under the most exasperating conditions, can be relied upon not to repeat that performance that they will be willing to mar the greatest of the trust ill-effects that have again to those of a political combination shouting reform but aiming principally at the offices. Better not lean upon that reed. The thing to do is for the party in full power, with everything lovely and the goose hanging high, to correct flagrant and confessed abuses, and appeal to the country on the strength of a good record courageously made.

The Spanish War, and After.

A Spanish diplomat, described as "thinly veiled," contributes to the Independence Bells at Brussels an article giving the credit to Russia for defeating Spain's effort to secure a European concert against the United States at the time the war over Cuba was threatening. This should but confirm us in the belief that Great Britain is really entitled to it. For we may be sure that no Spanish diplomat or statesman would go out of his way at this time when all Europe is manifesting hearty good will for us to advance the proffer of friendship of that power which disappointed Spain the most bitterly at that time. Great Britain wins. If the matter had been in any doubt, this Spaniard would have settled it in her favor.

But the United States is in no surly mood toward any of the powers which mistreated us in that affair. We cannot afford to be. Not only is the chapter closed, but while it was still open we had as violent detractors among our own people as lived in any country in Europe. American sneers at our professions of humanity in the premises were very hearty. They were wholly without effect on public policy, but they were directed toward holding the government up to the contempt of mankind. No French, Austrian, or German newspaper expressed sentiments more derogatory to the American character or intentions than appeared in cold type in the columns of a few American journals.

But while that chapter is closed, and where in Europe there were distrust and censure then there is friendly greeting for us now. We have yet to remember that our promises about the war are out, and must be recalled. We promised Cuba a government of her own, and, implicitly, of course, one under which her people could prosper and be happy. We must keep that to the letter; and the greatest essential of such a government is reciprocal trade relations with the United States. We are getting on well in Porto Rico, where the improvement over Spanish conditions is marked on every hand, and what we have to show in the Philippines, achieved under great difficulties, is something of which we have reason to be proud.

If we keep up this record all along the line, and show the world that the United States is no boaster, but makes her word good when given, and causes the stars and stripes to stand for a beneficent rule at a distance as within the home borders, we shall hold the good will abroad of which there are now so many evidences, and silence all detractors. All except those living under the protection of the government they delight in traducing. These, like the poor, we shall always have with us. And these we can stand.

Senator Tillman never says anything he is sorry for. He seems unable to perceive when it is time to be sorry.

A great deal of quiet fun is made of General Funston. He probably is not afraid of that, either.

The Prince and American Prosperity. As the time approaches for Prince Henry of Prussia to visit this country the importance of the occasion appears to grow in the minds of both Americans and Europeans. It is recognized as an event of broad significance, as tending toward the establishment of closer relations between the United States and Germany. Among the suggestions which have come in number from abroad regarding the purpose of the visit is one which is of interest even though it does not relate to the possibility of political developments. Prince Henry, it is stated, hopes in the course of his visit to become acquainted with the men of substance of the nation, to observe the mass of the people and particularly to study conditions which underlie their wonderful prosperity. This is rather a broad plan, and it is to be feared that the limited time now allotted to the prince for his tour will not suffice for his satisfactory accomplishment.

Prince Henry will doubtless obtain at first-hand a distinct impression of the wealth and power of the United States. He will be given an idea of its enormous extent, beyond his flying visits into the interior. But he can not, in the nature of things, obtain more than a superficial impression of

the character of the people. His visits to Chicago and other middle western cities will permit him to estimate distances only to a small extent. He will not grasp the significance of industrial activity in passing. He will not be able to visit the farms of the west, where is being grown the grain that feeds a large part of Europe, or view the vast ranches where the cattle are raised which supply the meat exports against which his country has of late years been erecting barriers.

The prince should stay here several months if he really desires to carry back with him an adequate notion of what the United States is today as an industrial force. He should cut loose from the formal ceremonies of reception and trust himself to the guidance of the business men, the wage-workers, the farmers, the scientists. He should devote himself to a study of the resources by visiting the mines, mills and farms. Then he would be capable of reporting intelligently to his brother monarch. They would find that the forces which make America great commercially are also at work to raise the standards of individual capacity, to broaden the grasp of citizens upon vital questions. Prince Henry might set the fashion in this respect and establish a precedent in the line of direct royal investigation which could not but facilitate the growth of a mutuality of appreciation between the Germans and the Americans.

The Memorial Bridge. There is so much to admire and endorse in the park commission's plans for the improvement of the capital that it is with reluctance The Star takes exception to any particular feature or recommendation. The commission's views upon the Memorial bridge are, however, so much at variance with the public ideals for that structure and also with the official record as far as it has been made up that it is impossible to ignore the subject. The commission declares in favor of a plain steel bridge structure as being more suitable, more architecturally frank, than an ornamental masonry creation, this judgment being based solely on the ground that the navigation of the river and the height at which the bridge will be constructed will require a draw at the channel point.

Heretofore the preparation of plans for the Memorial bridge the fact of the draw has not prevented the elaboration of the designs in what has seemed to the public mind a wholly feasible and artistic manner. In most of the designs which have been submitted the point of the draw has been treated with special consideration, with a high degree of ornamentation. Indeed the draw piers of the Burr plan, which stands as the accepted model for the bridge, constitute the chief feature of the structure apart from the monumental approaches.

The most serious factor which has operated against the starting of work on the Memorial bridge, aside from the economical tendencies of the House, is the plea of an architect who believes his plan to be better than that accepted by the War Department commission organized by order of Congress. This rival plan is even more elaborate than the favored one, and involves a higher cost. It is curious now to find the park commission reverting to the project of an entirely plain bridge structure, elaborated only in the approaches.

For many years the District has worked to secure this bridge, for practical as well as historical and sentimental reasons. The plan has had the endorsement of the various patriotic organizations of the country, and since the death of Mr. McKinley it has been regarded as in a marked degree associated with his name and work. He hoped for its erection as a memorial to American valor, and its creation in the highest type of the architect's art would be a tribute to him as well as to his comrades in arms in whose name it was originally planned.

To reduce the Memorial bridge, which stands for such a pronounced American sentiment today, to the level of a steel truss, however it might be provided with ornamental approaches, would be to commit a form of sacrilege. The people will willingly endure a little architectural pretense in order to provide both a monumental bridge design and free navigation of the river. They would never pardon the reduction of the bridge to the simple terms of the park commission's suggestion, merely because of some fancied conflict between the two elements of masonry arches and a draw span.

The Pan-American Conference.

Mr. Charles M. Pepper's letter to The Star, printed today, summarizing the work of the Pan-American conference at Mexico, to which he was a delegate, affords an instructive bird's-eye view of that assembly and its results. Mr. Pepper writes with the confidence of the future fruits of the conference, believing that the meeting caused the delegates from the various American countries to grow into closer relations and a better understanding which cannot fall eventually to make for good in the welfare of the continents. He holds that the next conference, to be held in a few years, will show that this one just closed has been productive of tangible results along the line of the arbitration of governmental differences in the three Americas and of the general promotion of Pan-Americanism.

The question of raising a congressman's salary is always an embarrassing one. What is salary compared to the joy of serving one's country?

J. Pierpont Morgan's failure to gain control of the coal mines is to be regretted. Any change in the system by which coal is peddled out to the public would be hopeful.

It will no doubt be a relief to the king when the coronation is over and he can settle down to the task of being monarch without further interruption.

If Miss Stone reads all that is written about her, she will have her doubts about the matter, when her release actually comes.

Dr. Parkhurst continues to claim some public attention in spite of the fact that his reform outfit has long since gone to the scrap pile.

The public will not insist on the reduction of railway fares if the profits are expended in making the roads safe and in providing proper terminal facilities.

A Good Start. The first tangible evidence of the government's purpose to follow the recommendations of the park commission in the employment of its new buildings is furnished by the action of the Senate committee on public buildings yesterday in reporting a bill for the purchase of a site and the construction of a new home for the Executive offices and the Department of State and Justice. The sum named in the bill for this purpose is \$7,000,000. For this amount a building of a truly monumental character can be produced. According to the expectations of the committee, it will be a fitting supplement, architecturally, to the glory of Congress.

This token of good faith on the part of Congress is especially gratifying because it is the first distinct step toward the ex-

clusion of the definite plan of building location. It guarantees that there will henceforth be no more haphazard site selection, but that the government's building needs will be provided for from time to time according to a systematic scheme of relationship. Only by strict adherence to this policy can Washington be made truly great in its proportions and its equipment.

Action upon the bill at this session will permit the beginning of building operations within a few months, allowing proper time for the preparation of plans under competition. It is to be assumed that for a building of this character and cost every precaution will be taken to secure the best possible design of which American architects are capable.

Some of the congressmen who have been greatly annoyed by the petitions of constituents for advancement in office fail to appreciate the prospect of relief contained in the President's objection to the use of influence.

The preparations for the entertainment of Prince Henry may proceed with joyous confidence. The prince has announced in advance that he is not going to be difficult to please.

Every now and then Tom L. Johnson is tempted to let the street car take care of itself and look out for the political band wagon.

General Kitchener may be satisfied that the victory is swiftly assured if there is any martial efficacy in poetry.

Pittsburg has turned up an outlaw story that is well calculated to make the "wild west" envious.

The Cubans insist that the sugar tariff is giving them an undue share of the bitter with the sweet.

SHOOTING STARS.

Methods of Genius.

"Dr. Johnson could remember everything he wrote," said the literary man.

"That is the difference between Dr. Johnson and myself," answered the composer of music. "I write everything I can remember."

"Day kin make de Indian cut his ha'r," said Uncle Eben, "but it won't be no use o' deir tryin' to compel de cullud folks to quit wearin' deir ha'r short."

Alert.

"A farmer ought to read a great deal, just the same as any other business man."

"Yes," answered Farmer Cornstossel. "It keeps me so busy posting up on railroad rates and the tariff that I'm some times afraid I won't have time to raise the stuff to send to market."

In Turn.

The automobile. That caused us dismay, Is humbled at last By the man with a sleigh.

Almost Discouraging.

"We are going to have a number of beautiful libraries," said the happy man.

"Yes," answered the gaunt person with the lustrous eye. "It is a terrible responsibility to put upon this generation. I don't know who is going to write the books worthy of such magnificent surroundings."

Quinine.

Oh, the city is sounding with beautiful bells, When your system is full of quinine. You list to the chorus that echoes and swells And the shivering germs hear their funeral knells.

As in terror they fly down your spine, And the microbes, like sprites who for mischief still lurk, In your head build a saw mill and set it to work.

All the world is a stir, 'Tis a resonant blur, The universe whirrs with a whizz and a whirl, The stars and the planets rush on till you feel Like the dull, helpless hub of a hurrying wheel.

You long to keep still And you try with a will For you fear the results of a general epist That will send you afar like some recalcitrant star.

Through the vast Milky Way with a jolt and a jar, And your dreams—they are full of such dreadful dismay That memory revolts and forbids them to stay.

You try to get rid of these fancies malign, But you can't, when your system is full of quinine.

Philippine Slavery.

From the New York Tribune. In taking over the Philippines we have gathered in a lot of Mahometans who possess many Christian and native slaves and must have to read out to them a new emancipation proclamation. But it will be time enough to leap the wicket of that difficulty when we get to it. As a part of the white man's burden only the coward and the anti-imperialist would shrink from it, and in the movements of national policy their inclinations do not count.

The Argentine Navy.

From the Buenos Ayres Herald. It has in the past been quite the proper thing to criticize the Argentine navy, and it must be confessed that in the past there has been much that was legitimately open to criticism. That it is perfect today no one would contend, yet we have every reason to believe that if the worst should befall it, it would render a good account of itself, and do honor to Argentina.

Unconscious Humor.

From the Buffalo Express. An Iowa man has written to his representative for volumes of the Congressional Record containing obituaries, saying: "There is nothing I read with so much pleasure as the obituaries of dead congressmen." The best humor is unconscious.

Coroner's Inquest.

From the New York World. The public is thinking of holding an inquest on the coroners.

Gov. Taft.

Gov. Taft's sunny disposition ought to make Washington a gay city while he stays there.

Already in the Air.

From the New York Mail and Express. The next cabinet rumors may be expected to relate to the first Secretary of Commerce.

Sensitive.

Senator Tillman seems to take every reference to lynching as a personal affront.

Spanish Revolutionists.

From the Chicago Record-Herald. It is again feared that there may be a revolution in Spain. The Spanish revolutionists, however, seldom become so rash as to pass the threatening point.

The Philippine Dollar.

From the Philadelphia Ledger. If the design for that Philippine dollar is adopted as published, it is to be hoped the coin will stay in the Philippines.

Grade Crossings.

From the New York Tribune. There are too many grade crossings of steam railroad lines in this state, and changes are needed sorely.

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